

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 CU-04 /093 W
-----072760 111203Z /20

R 111043Z MAR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2680
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0124

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 6-12.

REF: (A) MBFR VIENNA 0111 (DTG 081945Z MAR 78)

(B) MBFR VIENNA 0118 (DTG 091006Z MAR 78)

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EASTERN REPS THIS WEEK AGREED TO MODIFY
FURTHER THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN DRAFT TEXT OF THE ORAL STATEMENTS
WHICH WOULD PRECEDE AN EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY
MANPOWER DATA. THEY CONTINUED TO INSIST, HOWEVER, THAT THE
WESTERN STATEMENT SHOULD CONTAIN AN EXPLICIT REFERENCE
BY DATE TO THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION

PROPOSAL. IN A MARCH 8 REPORT TO THE NAC, THE AD HOC GROUP STATED THAT WESTERN NEGOTIATORS HAD NOW ESTABLISHED THE BEST BASIS FOR A FURTHER DATA EXCHANGE ATTAINABLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT TO PROTRACT THE DISCUSSION OF THE ORAL STATEMENTS MIGHT BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE WEST. ON MARCH 10, THE GROUP RECEIVED NAC GUIDANCE AUTHORIZING WESTERN NEGOTIATORS TO EXCHANGE ADDITIONAL DATA ON THE BASIS OF ORAL STATEMENTS INCORPORATING THE LATEST AMENDMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE MARCH 7 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, WESTERN REPS DESCRIBED THE MERITS OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AND POINTED OUT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN APPROACH WOULD DIMINISH WESTERN SECURITY. EASTERN REPS ARGUED THAT THE EASTERN APPROACH WAS WHOLLY ASYMETRICAL TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE EAST, BOTH QUANTITATIVELY AS REGARDS THE AMOUNT OF MANPOWER AND ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS ENVISAGED AND QUALITATIVELY AS REGARDS THE PROPOSED METHOD OF REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS ADDRESSED THE EASTERN POSITION ON ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS AND BLUNTLY ENUMERATED REASONS WHY WESTERN FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT MANPOWER STRNEGTH IN CENTRAL SECRET

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EUROPE WERE INCORRECT.

3. THE REMAINDER OF THE MARCH 7 INFORMAL SESSION DEALT WITH THE ISSUE OF THE ORAL STATEMENTS TO PRECEDE A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA. EASTERN REPS SHOWED SOME WILLINGNESS TO MODIFY THE ALTERNATIVE WORDING THEY HAD PROPOSED ON MARCH 2 FOR THE EXPRESSION OF WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN DRAFT TEXT OF THE STATEMENTS AND TO DROP THE RESTORATION OF A FURTHER CITATION OF THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL AS A CONDITION FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ALTERNATIVE WORDING. EASTERN REPS SAID THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THEIR ABSENT GDR COLLEAGUE BEFORE TAKING A FIRM POSITION ON THESE POINTS. WESTERN REPS SUGGESTED THAT THE SESSION BE RESUMED EXPEDITIOUSLY FOLLOWING THE EASTERN CONSULTATIONS. EASTERN REPS AGREED AND SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED THAT THE CONTINUED SESSION TAKE PLACE ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 8.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0124

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

4. DURING THE MARCH 8 CONTINUATION OF THE MARCH
7 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS AGREED, SUBJECT
TO THE APPROVAL OF THEIR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES,
TO SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS OF THE DECEMBER 14 EAST-
ERN TEXT TO MEET SPECIFIC WESTERN POINTS. THEY
CONTINUED TO INSIST, HOWEVER, THAT THE WESTERN
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ORAL STATEMENT HAD TO INCLUDE AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE THE DATA DESCRIBED IN THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA PROPOSAL. WESTERN REPS WELCOMED THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS. THEY SAID THEY WOULD STUDY THEM AND PROVIDE A REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. LATER ON MARCH 8, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE STATUS OF EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST ON THE MODALITIES FOR CONDUCTING A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA. THE REPORT WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY AN ORAL REPORT, WHOSE OUTLINE WAS ALSO APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP ON MARCH 8, WHICH UK REP BOLLAND MADE TO THE NAC ON MARCH 10. BOTH REPORTS REFLECTED THE AD HOC GROUP'S JUDGMENT THAT WESTERN NEGOTIATORS HAD NOW ESTABLISHED THE BEST BASIS FOR A FURTHER DATA EXCHANGE ATTAINABLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT TO PROTRACT THE DISCUSSION OF THE ORAL STATEMENTS MIGHT BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE WEST. (NOTE: REF A TRANSMITTED THE TEXTS OF BOTH THE MARCH 8 WRITTEN REPORT AND MARCH 10 ORAL REPORT OUTLINE ALONG WITH THE ANNOTATED TEXT OF THE DRAFT ORAL DATA STATEMENTS AS CORRECTED BY REF B. THE REPORTS PROVIDE A SUMMARY CHRONOLOGY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DATA EXCHANGE ISSUE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING ROUND. END NOTE.)

6. ON MARCH 10, THE AD HOC GROUP RECEIVED NAC GUIDANCE AUTHORIZING WESTERN NEGOTIATORS TO CONDUCT AN EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL DATA ON THE BASIS OF ORAL STATEMENTS INCORPORATING THE CHANGES PROVISIONALLY AGREED TO BY EASTERN REPS EARLIER IN THE WEEK. THE
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GROUP MET THE SAME DAY TO DISCUSS TACTICS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS GUIDANCE. AS A FIRST STEP, IT WAS AGREED TO PROPOSE TO EASTERN REPS THAT TRANSLATORS ON BOTH SIDES MEET TO PREPARE FULLY CONFORMED ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE LATEST VARIANT OF THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN TEXT FOR USE AT THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.

7. BULGARIAN REP DICHEV MADE THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 9 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION DWELT ON THE NEED TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN WHAT WAS REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO AS THE EXISTING APPROXIMATE EQUALITY OF FORCES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THE STATEMENT INCLUDED THE ALLEGATION THAT

THE WEST HAD ADOPTED AN UNCONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE EASTERN INTERIM FREEZE PROPOSAL BECAUSE
OF PRIOR WESTERN PLANS TO INCREASE MANPOWER AND
ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA AND TO INTRODUCE NEW WEAPONS
SUCH AS THE "NEUTRON BOMB."RESOR

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